

Platform of the Socialist Party of the United States

What Human Life Depends On.
Human life depends upon food, clothing and shelter. Only with these assured are freedom, culture and higher human development possible. To produce, food, clothing or shelter, land and machinery are needed. Land alone does not satisfy human needs. Human labor creates machinery and applies it to the land for the production of raw material and food. Whoever has control of land and machinery controls human labor, and with it human life and liberty.

The Cause of Class Rule.

Today the machinery and the land used for industrial purposes are owned by a rapidly decreasing minority. So long as machinery is simple and easily handled by one man, its owner cannot dominate the sources of life of others. But when machinery becomes more complex and expensive, and requires for its operation the organized effort of many workers, its influence reaches over wide circles of life. The owners of such machinery become the dominant class.

Men Are Made Slaves.

In proportion as the number of such machine owners compared to all other classes decreases, their power in the nation and in the world increases. They bring ever larger masses of working people under their control, reducing them to the point where muscle and brain are their only productive property. Millions of formerly self-employing workers thus become the helpless wage slaves of industrial masters.

Ruling Class as Parasites.

As the economic power of the ruling class grows it becomes less useful in the life of the nation. All the useful work of the nation falls upon the shoulders of the class whose only property is its manual and mental labor power—the wage worker—or of the class who have but little land and little effective machinery outside of their labor power—the small traders and small farmers. The ruling minority is steadily becoming useless and parasitic.

The Class Struggle.

A bitter struggle over the division of the products of labor is waged between the exploiting, propertyed classes on the one hand and the exploited propertyless class on the other. In this struggle the working class cannot expect adequate relief from any reform of the present order at the hand of the dominant class.

The wage workers are, therefore, the most antagonists of the ruling class. They suffer most from the curse of class rule. The fact that a few capitalists are permitted to control all the country's industrial resources and social tools for their individual profit, and to make the production of the necessities of life the object of competitive private enterprise and speculation is at the bottom of all the social evils of our time.

Overproduction and Idleness.

In spite of the organization of trusts, pools and combinations, the capitalists are powerless to regulate production for social ends. Industries are largely conducted in a planless manner. Through periods of feverish activity the strength and health of the workers are mercilessly used up, and during periods of enforced idleness the workers are frequently reduced to starvation.

The climax of this system of production are the regularly recurring industrial depressions and crises which paralyze the nation every fifteen or twenty years.

Labour Exploitation.

The capitalist class, in its mad race for profits, is bound to exploit the workers to the very limit of their endurance and to sacrifice their physical, moral and mental welfare to its own insatiable greed. Capitalism keeps the masses of workingmen in poverty, destitution, physical exhaustion and ignorance. It drags their wives from their homes to the mill and factory. It snatches their children from the playgrounds and schools and grinds their slender bodies and unformed minds into cold dollars. It disfigures, maims and kills hundreds of thousands of workingmen annually in mines, on railroads and in factories. It drives millions of workers into the ranks of the unemployed and forces large numbers of them into beggary, vagrancy and all forms of crime and vice.

Power of Corruption.

To maintain their rule over their fellow men, the capitalists must keep in their pay all organs of the public powers, public mind and public conscience. They control the dominant parties and, through them, the elected public officials. They select the executives, bribe legislators and corrupt the courts and the press. They dominate the educational institutions. They own the nation politically and intellectually just as they own it industrially.

The Vital Issue.

The struggle between wage workers and capitalists grows ever fiercer, and has now become the only vital issue before the American people. The wage-working class, therefore, has the most direct interest in abolishing the capitalist system. But in abolishing the present system,

the workingmen will free not only their own class, but also all other classes of modern society: The small farmer, who is today exploited by large capital more indirectly but not less effectively than is the wage laborer; the small manufacturer and trader, who is engaged in a desperate and losing struggle for economic independence in the face of the all-conquering power of concentrated capital; and even the capitalist himself, who is the slave of his wealth rather than his master. The struggle of the working class against the capitalist class, while it is a class struggle for the abolition of all classes and class privileges.

The Rock of Class Rule.

The private ownership of the land and means of production used for exploitation is the rock upon which class rule is built; political government is its indispensable instrument. The wage-workers cannot be freed from exploitation without conquering the political power and substituting collective for private ownership of the land and means of production used for exploitation.

The basis for such transformation is rapidly developing within present capitalist society. The factory system with its complex machinery and minute division of labor is rapidly destroying all vestiges of individual production in manufacture. Modern production is already very largely a collective and social process. The great trusts and monopolies which have sprung up in recent years have organized the work and management of the principal industries on a national scale, and have fitted them to collective use and operation.

Land and Public Welfare.

There can be no absolute private title to land. All private titles whether called fee simple or otherwise, are and must be subordinate to the public title. The Socialist Party strives to prevent land from being used for the purpose of exploitation and speculation. It demands the collective possession, control or management of land to whatever extent may be necessary to attain that end. It is not opposed to the occupation and possession of land by those using it in a useful and bona fide manner without exploitation.

The Socialist Party is primarily an economic and political movement. It is not concerned with matters of religious belief.

Labour's Interests Identical.

In the struggle for freedom the interests of all modern workers are identical. The struggle is not only national, but international. It embraces the world and will be carried to ultimate victory by the united workers of the world.

To unite the workers of the nation and their allies and sympathizers of all other classes to this is the mission of the Socialist Party. In this battle for freedom the Socialist Party does not strive to substitute working class rule for capitalist class rule but by working-class victory to free all humanity from class rule and to realize the international brotherhood of man.

PROGRAM.

As measures calculated to strengthen the working class in its fight for the realization of this ultimate aim and to increase its power of resistance against capitalist oppression, we advocate and pledge ourselves and our elected officers to the following program:

GENERAL DEMANDS.

1. The immediate government relief for the unemployed workers by building schools, by reforesting of cut-over and waste lands, by reclamation of arid tracts, and the building of canals, and by extending all other useful public works. All persons employed on such work shall be employed directly by the government under an eight-hour work day and at the prevailing union wages. The government shall also loan money to states and municipalities without interest for the purpose of carrying on public works. It shall contribute to the funds of labor organizations for the purpose of assisting their unemployed members, and shall take such other measures within its power as will lessen the widespread misery of the workers caused by the misrule of the capitalist class.

2. The collective ownership of railroads, telegraphs, telephones, steamboat lines and all other means of social transportation and communication.

3. The collective ownership of all industries which are organized on a national scale and in which competition has virtually ceased to exist.

4. The extension of the public domain to include mining, quarries, oil wells, forests and water power.

5. The scientific reforestation of timber lands, and the reclamation of swamp lands. The land so reforested or reclaimed to be permanently retained as a part of the public domain.

6. The absolute freedom of press, speech and assembly.

INDUSTRIAL DEMANDS.

7. The improvement of the industrial condition of the workers.

(a) By shortening the workday in keeping with the increased productivity of machinery.

(b) By securing to every worker a rest period of not less than a day and a half in each week.

(c) By securing a more effective inspection of workshops and factories.

(d) By forbidding the employment of children under sixteen years of

(e) By forbidding the interstate transportation of the products of child labor, of convict labor and of all un-inspected factories.

(f) By abolishing official charity and substituting in its place compulsory insurance against employment, illness, accidents, invalidism, old age and death.

POLITICAL DEMANDS.

8. The extension of inheritance taxes, graduated in proportion to the amount of the bequests and to the nearness of kin.

9. A graduated income tax.

10. Unrestricted and equal suffrage for men and women, and we pledge ourselves to engage in an active campaign in that direction.

11. The initiative and referendum, proportional representation and the right of recall.

12. The abolition of the senate.

13. The abolition of the power usurped by the supreme court of the United States to pass upon the constitutionality of legislation enacted by congress. National laws to be repealed or abrogated only by act of congress or by a referendum of the whole people.

14. That the Constitution be made amendable by majority vote.

15. The enactment of further measures for general education and for the conservation of health. The bureau of education to be made a department. The creation of a department of health.

16. The separation of the present bureau of labor from the department of commerce and labor, and the establishment of a department of labor.

17. That all judges be elected by the people for short terms, and that the power to issue injunctions shall be curbed by immediate legislation.

The free administration of justice. Such measures of relief as we may be able to force from capitalism are but a preparation of the workers to seize the whole powers of government in order that they may thereby lay hold of the whole system of industry and thus come to their rightful inheritance.

The Socialist Party!

The Strickland meeting here last Thursday night was a decided success. The Hon. S. C. Cross acted as chairman and opened the meeting with a scathing attack on the thriving trusts and monopolies. Mrs. May Strickland was first introduced by the chairman and in her speech appealed to the ladies to take an interest in the political problems of the day.

The speaker described conditions as they were and then pictured a home as it should be. Then showed how the present rotten system of government had destroyed the home, how poverty had driven love out of the homes of the workers and brought in its place misery and despair. Mrs. Strickland then recited a piece written to the magazine by Randolph Chester showing how impossible it was for a working man to live a straight, honest, upright life. Comrade Strickland who spoke after his wife, was in fine condition and was at his best.

After showing up the two old parties and ridiculing their methods he made it plain to the audience that Socialism was the only hope for the workers to better their condition and that it was the duty of the working people to join the Socialist organization. The speaker went on to tell the duty and purpose of the organization saying in part "that the Socialist organization only had to lay the fence down and show them the gap that Morgan, Rockefeller and Carnegie would give them through."

"Fool's Paradise"

A fashionable church is a fool's paradise. —Dick Maple.
Say, you mud-splitters, do you remember during our last great dedication week, how the Mail and Gazette used columns telling of the suffering women and children in this city, and that the Salvation Army was trying in all ways possible to get food for them? But Dame Fashion under the auspices of old Nick Hypocrisy carried out her program to a man's bristle, southwest corner of Morris and Quarrier street.

LUM HEZEKIAH.

Grafter

If each grafter had a bad smell Washington, D. C., would stink like a tannery. —Dick Maple.
Now, you straight haired and kink-headed artists who air your troubles in Squire Atkinson's court. Why do you pay him one dollar cash in hand for bonding you? Is it because you don't know the law only allows him 25 cents or is it because you hope by laying low you will get his job next term. If the last is the reason, you are no better than he is, but all the same he will be called Mister from this time on, for he has just about completed a court adjoining the State St. M. E. North of God paragonage that gives him a warrant deed to the title. Look at the short time it took him to do it. No wonder you can't pay your grocery bills, darn you. You ought to starve.

LUM HEZEKIAH.

SIZING THEM UP.

William D. Haywood, one of Teddy's so-called undesirable citizens, is touring throughout the country, and in a recent address handed out the following bonnet.

"The capitalist class have no country, no flag, no patriotism, no honor and no God but gold. Their emblem is the dollar mark, their ensign the skull and cross-bones for women and little children, their symbol the black flag of commercial piracy and their password is graft."

Reciprocity Act Favored by Canada and the United States

THE full text of the McCall bill for Canadian reciprocity as passed by the house of representatives is as follows:

Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, That there shall be levied, collected and paid upon the articles hereinafter enumerated, the growth, product or manufacture of the Dominion of Canada, when imported therefrom into the United States or any of its possessions, except the Philippine Islands and the islands of Guam and Tutuila, in lieu of the duties now levied, collected and paid the following duties, namely:

Fresh meats—beef, veal, mutton, lamb, pork and all other fresh or refrigerated meats excepting game—14 cents per pound.

Bacon and hams not in tins or jars, 14 cents per pound.

Meats of all kinds—dried, smoked, salted, in brine or prepared or preserved in any manner—not otherwise herein provided for, 14 cents per pound.

Canned meats and canned poultry, 20 per centum ad valorem.

Extract of meat, fluid or not, 20 per centum ad valorem.

Lard and compounds thereof, cotton lene and cotton stearine and animal tallow, 14 cents per pound.

Tallow, 40 cents per hundred pounds.

Egg yolk, egg albumen and blood albumen, 7½ cents per hundred pounds.

Fish (except shellfish), by whatever name known, packed in oil, in tin boxes or cans, including the weight of the package—(a) when weighing over twenty ounces and not over thirty-six ounces each, 5 cents per package; (b) when weighing over twelve ounces and not over twenty ounces each, 4 cents per package; (c) when weighing twelve ounces each or less, 2 cents per package; (d) when weighing thirty-six ounces each or more or when packed in oil, in bottles, jars or kegs, 30 per centum ad valorem.

Tomatoes and other vegetables, including corn in cans or other airtight packages and including the weight of the package, 14 cents per pound.

Wheat flour and semolina and rye flour, 50 cents per barrel of 196 pounds.

Oatmeal and rolled oats, including the weight of paper covering, 50 cents per hundred pounds.

Cornmeal, 12½ cents per hundred pounds.

Barley malt, 45 cents per hundred pounds.

Barley, pot, pearled or patent, one-half cent per pound.

Buckwheat flour or meal, one-half cent per pound.

Split peas, dried, 7½ cents per bushel of sixty pounds.

Prepared cereal foods, not otherwise provided for herein, 17½ per centum ad valorem.

Bran, middlings and other offals of grain used for animal food, 12½ cents per hundred pounds.

Macaroni and vermicelli, 1 cent per pound.

Biscuits, wafers and cakes, when sweetened with sugar, honey, molasses or other material, 25 per centum ad valorem.

Biscuits, wafers, cakes and other baked articles composed in whole or in part of eggs or any kind of flour or meal, when combined with chocolate, nuts, fruits or confectionery; also candied peel, candied popcorn, candied nuts, candied fruits, sugar candy and confectionery of all kinds, 32½ per centum ad valorem.

Maple sugar and maple sirup, 1 cent per pound.

Pickles, including pickled nuts, sauces of all kinds, and fish paste or sauce, 32½ per centum ad valorem.

Cherry juice and prune juice, or prune wine, and other fruit juices and fruit sirup, nonalcoholic, 17½ per centum ad valorem.

Mineral waters and imitations of natural mineral waters, in bottles or jugs, 17½ per centum ad valorem.

Essential oils, 7½ per centum ad valorem.

Grapevines, gooseberry, raspberry and currant bushes, 17½ per centum ad valorem.

Farm wagons and finished parts thereof, 22½ per centum ad valorem.

Plows, tooth and disk harrows, rippers, reapers, agricultural drills and planters, mowers, horse mowers, cultivators, thrashing machines, including wind stackers, baggers, and self feeders thereof and finished parts thereof imported for repair of the foregoing, 15 per centum ad valorem.

Portable engines with boilers in combination, horsepowers and traction engines for farm purposes, hay loaders, potato diggers, fodder or feed cutters, grain crushers, fanning mills, hay tedders, farm or field rollers, manure spreaders, weedeaters and windmills and finished parts thereof imported for repair of the foregoing, except shafting, 20 per centum ad valorem.

Grindstones of sandstone, not mounted, finished or not, 5 cents per hundred pounds.

Oxide of iron as a color, 22½ per centum ad valorem.

Asbestos, further manufactured than ground; manufactures of asbestos or articles of which asbestos is the component material of chief value, including woven fabrics, wholly or in chief value of asbestos, 22½ per centum ad valorem.

Printing ink, 17½ per centum ad valorem.

Cutlery, plated or not—pocketknives, penknives, scissors and shears, knives and forks for household purposes and table steels—27½ per centum ad valorem.

Bells and gongs, brass corners and rules for printers, 27½ per centum ad valorem.

Basins, urinals and other plumbing fixtures for bathrooms and lavatories; bathtubs, sinks and laundry tubs of earthenware, stone, cement or clay or of other material, 32½ per centum ad valorem.

Brass band instruments, 22½ per centum ad valorem.

Clocks, watches, time recorders, clock and watch keys, clock cases and clock movements, 27½ per centum ad valorem.

Printers' wooden cases and cabinets for holding type, 27½ per centum ad valorem.

Wood flour, 22½ per centum ad valorem.

Canoes and small boats of wood, not power boats, 22½ per centum ad valorem.

Feathers, crude, not dressed, colored or otherwise manufactured, 12½ per centum ad valorem.

Antiseptic surgical dressings, such as absorbent cotton, cotton wool, lint, lamb's wool, tow, jute, gauzes and oakum, prepared for use as surgical dressings, plain or medicated; surgical trusses, pessaries and suspensory bandages of all kinds, 17½ per centum ad valorem.

Plate glass, not beveled, in sheets or panes exceeding seven square feet each and not exceeding twenty-five square feet each, 25 per centum ad valorem.

Motor vehicles, other than for railroads and tramways and automobiles and parts thereof, not including rubber tires 30 per centum ad valorem.

Iron or steel digesters for the manufacture of wood pulp, 27½ per centum ad valorem.

Musical instrument cases, fancy cases or boxes, portfolios, satchels, reticules, cardcases, purses, pocket-books, fly books for artificial flies, all the foregoing composed wholly or in chief value of leather, 30 per centum ad valorem.

Aluminum in crude form, 5 cents per pound.

Aluminum in plates, sheets, bars and rods, 8 cents per pound.

Laths, 10 cents per thousand pieces.

Shingles, 30 cents per thousand.

Saved boards, planks, deals and other lumber, planed or finished on one side, 50 cents per thousand feet, board measure; planed or finished on two sides and tongued and grooved, or planed or finished on two sides and tongued and grooved, \$1.12½ per thousand feet, board measure.

Finished board measure under this schedule no deduction shall be made on board measure on account of planing, tonguing and grooving.

Iron ore, including mangiferous iron ore and the dross or residuum from burnt pyrites, 10 cents per ton, provided that in levying and collecting duty on iron ore no deduction shall be made from the weight of the ore on account of moisture which may be chemically or physically combined therewith.

Coal slack or culm of all kinds, such as will pass through a half inch screen, 15 cents per ton.

Provided that the duties above enumerated shall take effect whenever the president of the United States shall have satisfactory evidence and shall make proclamation that on the articles hereinafter enumerated the growth, product or manufacture of the United States or any of its possessions (except the Philippine Islands and the islands of Guam and Tutuila), when imported therefrom into the Dominion of Canada, duties not in excess of the following are imposed, namely:

Fresh meats—beef, veal, mutton, lamb, pork and all other fresh or refrigerated meats excepting game—14 cents per pound.

Bacon and hams, not in tins or jars, 14 cents per pound.

Meats of all kinds, dried, smoked, salted, in brine or prepared or preserved in any manner, not otherwise herein provided for, 14 cents per pound.

Canned meats and canned poultry, 20 per centum ad valorem.

Extract of meat, fluid or not, 20 per centum ad valorem.

Lard and compounds thereof, cotton lene and cotton stearine and animal tallow, 14 cents per pound.

Tallow, 40 cents per hundred pounds.

Egg yolk, egg albumen and blood albumen, 7½ cents per hundred pounds.

Fish (except shellfish), by whatever name known, packed in oil, in tin boxes or cans, including the weight of the package—(a) when weighing over twenty ounces and not over thirty-six ounces each, 5 cents per package; (b) when weighing over twelve ounces and not over twenty ounces each, 4

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cents per package; (c) when weighing twelve ounces each or less, 2 cents per package; (d) when weighing thirty-six ounces each or more or when packed in oil, in bottles, jars or kegs, 30 per centum ad valorem.

Tomatoes and other vegetables, including corn, in cans or other airtight packages and including the weight of the package, 14 cents per pound.

Wheat flour and semolina and rye flour, 50 cents per barrel of 196 pounds.

Oatmeal and rolled oats, including the weight of paper covering, 50 cents per hundred pounds.

Cornmeal, 12½ cents per hundred pounds.

Barley malt, 45 cents per hundred pounds.

Barley, pot, pearled or patent, one-half cent per pound.

Buckwheat flour or meal, one-half cent per pound.

Split peas, dried, 7½ cents per bushel of sixty pounds.

Prepared cereal foods, not otherwise provided for herein, 17½ per centum ad valorem.

Bran, middlings and other offals of grain used for animal food, 12½ cents per hundred pounds.

Macaroni and vermicelli, 1 cent per pound.

Biscuits, wafers and cakes when sweetened with sugar, honey, molasses or other material, 25 per centum ad valorem.

Biscuits, wafers, cakes and other baked articles composed in whole or in part of eggs or any kind of flour or meal when combined with chocolate, nuts, fruits or confectionery, also candied peel, candied popcorn, candied nuts, candied fruits, sugar candy and confectionery of all kinds, 32½ per centum ad valorem.

Maple sugar and maple sirup, 1 cent per pound.

Pickles, including pickled nuts; sauces of all kinds and fish paste or sauce, 32½ per centum ad valorem.

Cherry juice and prune juice, or prune wine, and other fruit juices and fruit sirup, nonalcoholic, 17½ per centum ad valorem.

Mineral waters and imitations of natural mineral waters in bottles or jugs, 17½ per centum ad valorem.

Essential oils, 7½ per centum ad valorem.

Grapevines, gooseberry, raspberry and currant bushes, 17½ per centum ad valorem.

Farm wagons and finished parts thereof, 22½ per centum ad valorem.

Plows, tooth and disk harrows, rippers, reapers, agricultural drills and planters, mowers, horse mowers, cultivators, thrashing machines, including wind stackers, baggers, and self feeders thereof and finished parts thereof imported for repair of the foregoing, 15 per centum ad valorem.

Portable engines with boilers in combination, horsepowers and traction engines for farm purposes, hay loaders, potato diggers, fodder or feed cutters, grain crushers, fanning mills, hay tedders, farm or field rollers, manure spreaders, weedeaters and windmills and finished parts thereof imported for repair of the foregoing, except shafting, 20 per